



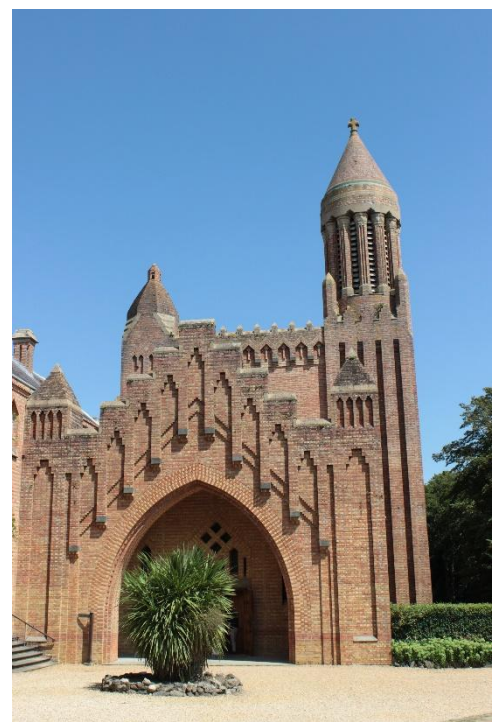
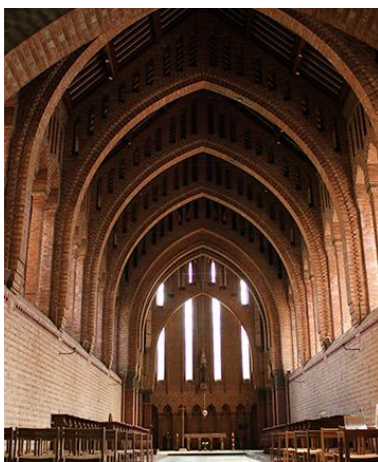
The Isle of Wight, is situated very close to the south coast of England

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to stay on this island for three weeks, two successive summers. I was a leader for a camp organized for teenagers. Our tents were installed in a meadow, in the area of an abbey : Quarr Abbey about which I would like to give some information.

The first foundation of this abbey is dated 1132, but it was completely destroyed on the orders of Henry VIII. Very near to its location, a new abbey was built at the beginning of the 20th century. The church was finished in 1912, after one year of works. The guest house was finished two years later, in 1914.

The origin of this new abbey was the migration of some French Benedictine monks, who decided to leave France at the beginning of the 20th century, due to the laws against religious life in France. The architect of the abbey was one of these monks, Dom Paul Bellot. It is curious to note that this catholic abbey is in a country where Protestantism is mostly represented.

The abbey is completely made of bricks, of two alternative colours, yellow and red, coming from Belgium. That gives it an interesting and original look.



Nine monks live and work in this abbey. It was funny for me to meet them in the church during their prayers in their monk's clothes, and a few minutes later in workers clothes, for their domestic activities. To get what they need to live, they breed pigs, which give very good meat.

Quarr Abbey is very popular on the island, and also elsewhere. An association, « The Friends of Quarr » is very active in supporting the site.



Unpaid volunteers work each day. They are particularly active in the monastery tea shop, where the products of a garden, and on the farm are sold. This shop is frequently full of visitors, who buy their products and have tea or coffee around the tables installed in the garden.

Don't hesitate to visit Quarr Abbey and the Isle of Wight, on the occasion of a trip to Great Britain. First, you can also make a virtual visit, looking at their very good website : <https://www.quarrabbey.org/site.php>

Jean-Louis Piette
May 10th 2019